GOOD BOOKS FOR THE ASKING

WHAT THE FREE LIBRARY IS DOING. GIVING THE BEST READING TO ALL WHO ASK FOR IT - WHAT MAY BE DONE WITH LARGER

MEANS. A little more than a year ago a meeting of those terested in extending the work of the New-York Free Circulating Library was held in the hall of the Union League Club. Many prominent citizens were present, and it was announced that a vigorous effort would be made to raise a fund large enough to place the library upon a firm foundation. In order to ascertain how far this effort had succeeded, and to learn the present condition and prospects of the library, a TRIBUNE reporter made some inquiries this week of Frederick W. Whitridge, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and William W. Appleton, chairman of the Committee on Library and Reading-rooms; and also visited the rooms of the Free Library Associa-

tion, at No. 36 Bond-st. Mr. Whitridge said that the committee made strenuous efforts to raise \$200,000 for the library, but succeeded in obtaining only about \$30,000. This sum, however, had been used to such advantage as largely to increase the usefulness of the library. The trustees have been enabled this fund to purchase a building at No. 49 Bond-st., and are now making such alterations as will render it suitable for library purposes. When this building is occupied by the association there will be, undoubtedly, a great gain in the circulation of the books on its shelves. The chief difficulty which the members of the association meet with is that of procuring sufficient funds to maintain the good work that they are doing: the expense is now met wholly by voluntary contributions. The annual begging by the friends of the library to maintain it during the year is unpleasant, harassing, and likely at any time to prove ineffective. The present running expenses of the library are about \$6,000 a year, which includes the purchase of a moderate number of new books. There is now about \$10,000 in the hands of the treasurer, but as the expense of moving the library and fitting up the new building has to be met this year, there is orgent need of increasing the fund for immediate use.

The reporter found the rooms in Bond-st., now occupied by the association, a busy place. They are comparatively small, but the reading-room and that in which books are given out were well filled with boys, girls and adults. Although it was a bright day outside, such a day as would naturally attract boys to play, there were not less than thirty of them, between the ages of twelve and eighteen, who were evidently unable to purchase books for themselves, busily reading newspapers and magagines and waiting to get volumes from the library. A number of these present had apparently just come from school, and thus the library is made an adjunct to the common-school system.

Mr. Appleton, chairman of the Library Committee said that it was often noticeable that the boys and girls would make use of the library to secure information in regard to subjects for compositions, essays, etc. No trashy books or periodicals are purchased or received by the association, and Miss Coe, the librarian, and her assistants make a special effort to guide the young people who make use of the library in a course of reading that will, be useful as well as entertaining. Persons calling for novels by Zola and other writers whose works are not kept in the library are induced to take those written by Hawthorne or Howells or some standard author, and they almost invariably show that they have been well pleased when they return the books, "The librarian has been constantly instructed," said Mr. Appleton, "to aid all readers in search of information, however trivial may be the subject, and, while the readers are to have free scope in the choice of books, those in charge have attempted, when they properly could do so without seeming officiousness, to suggest books of the best character, and induce the cultivation of a good literary taste.

Bulletins of new books and of books on special topics of the day were posted about the room, with other information in addition to the catalogue that would be of assistance to readers. Although the library is open to all who come from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. except on Sunday, when it is open from 4 p. m. to 9 p. m., and is in charge of women, yet there has pever been any trouble or disorder. It is visited largely by poor persons and some of those who come are of rather rough appearance; yet the services of the janitor, who is always near at reading room and library has been such, in the opinion of the librarian, as fully to justify the wisdom of the trustees in opening the rooms on that day. "The result," said Miss Coe, "seems to answer every objection which can be made to Sunday opening. The reading room is filled with quiet, orderly readers, among whom are many adults. Donotless many more would come if there were

Loss.
The library now contains about 7,300 volumes During the last year many books necessary to the library were added from special donations for this purpose, while a large number of valuable volumes were received as gifts. Among the latter was a gift of over a thousand volumes in German, admi-rably selected, which are already in extensive circulation. A set of Sir Walter Scott's novels in French has been so constantly in circulation as to be worn out. A large proportion of the books in the library have been contributed by its friends. Probably onethird of the wholenumber have little present value or interest, and are rarely used by the patrons of the library. Nevertheless, the whole number of vol-umes circulated during last year was about 72,000, Assuming that the number of available books in the library was 5,000, each volume was circulated over fourteen times. This percentage, when compared with that of other libraries, may be pronounced extraordinary. The Mercantile Library, with its 200,000 volumes, issued to resolves last year only 70,000 volumes—2,000 less than the number issued by the Free Circulating Library, which has only one book to every twenty-eight

be pronounced extraordinary. The saled to residers last year only 70,000 volumes, issued to residers last year only 70,000 volumes—2,000 less than the number issued by the Free Circulating Library, which has only one book to every twenty-eight owned by the Mercantile Library. Out of this extensive circulation only elevan books were lost, and this loss was due to the fact that persons having the books were called suddenly away from the city. When it is considered that the books are given out to any one living in New-York over tweive years of age who can be properly identified at the place of residence given, this small percentage of loss speaks highly for the honesty and intelligence of the patrons of the library as well as for its management. In the Birmingham Public Library of England, which is considered one of the best conducted, the percentage oi loss is about one volume out of every 4.000 issued. In the Apprentices' Library in this city the loss last year was one volume out of every 6.286 issued. During the last six months the loss in the Free Circulating Library has reached only three volumes out of the 36,000 issued.

Another gratifying fact in connection with the work of the Free Library Association is the tendency of the readers toward the more instructive and substantial kinds of literature. This is proved by the percentage of books of fiction circulated, as compared with the percentages shown by the reports of other libraries doing similar work. Last year the percentage of fiction circulated elsewhere, as shown by reports that have been consulted of other similar libraries, was 69 per cent, while in most of the libraries the percentage was between 70 and 80. The most popular book in the library is "Uncle Tom's Cubin," which was issued 80 times in seven months. The next in the order of popularity were the following: "Pickwick Papers," by Dickens, issued 53 times; "The Spr," by Cooper, 52; "David Copyofield," by Dickens, 62; "Downbry, by Hardy, 45; "Last of the Mohicaus," by Cooper, 52; "Handy Andy," b

NEED OF MEANS TO EXTEND THE WORK. The trustees have carefully considered the best

means of conducting the work of the association, and have decided upon a general system by which the most good should result to those requiring their aid. It is proposed to establish small labraries in the centres of the poorest and most thickly settled districts of New-York, each library to contain about 10,000 volumes. The books are to be selected with special reference to the wants of each district, carefully excluding all works of doubtful carefully excluding all works of doubtful influence for good. Reading-rooms are to be attached to each circulating library, and as the libraries are to be small, readers will be able to receive more than the usual attention at the hands of the librarians. It is untended to have the main library in the building already purchased in Bond-st. The great need is to secure a fund large enough to endow the main library, so as to devote such means as can be derived from subscriptions thereafter to the work of founding branches.

Any person giving to the library at one time the

be derived from subscriptions thereafter to the work of founding branches.

Any person giving to the library at one time the sum of \$5,000, or books valued at that sum, is known as a "Founder" of the library. Any person giving at any one time money or books to the amount of \$1,000 is a "Patron," and the gift of \$200 at one time in money or books constitutes a "Life Member." There are only two "Founders" as yet, Mrs. Benjamin H. Field and John Jacob Astor. The "Patrons" are: Andrew Carnegie, Benjamin H. Field, Cyrus W. Field, Robert Hoe, jr., Adrian Iselin, Charles Lanier, Bradley Martin, Henry G. Marquand, J. Pierpont Morean, Levi P. Morton, Frederic W. Stevens, Cornelius Vanderbilt.

The officers of the association are: President, Henry E. Pellew; vice-presidents, Benjamin H. Field, Mrs. Francis C. Barlow, Mrs. Samuel P. Biagden; treasurer, J. Pierpont Morgan; secretary, William Greenough; librarian, Miss Ellen B. Coe.

Subscriptions for the library fund should be sent to J. Pierpont Morgan, No. 23 Wall-st., and they will be announced from time to time in The IRB-UNE. The following amounts have been received recently:

recently:
Jacob H. Schiff \$500, Frederick Prime.
Miss Catherine Wolfe, 1,000 Miss S. R. C. Furniss.
Charles Lanter. 500 J. A. McKim.
Alried J. Taylor. 200 Haslett McKim.
W. R. Grace 200 Miss M. A. Collender.
F. H. F. Tuckerman 25 Miss A. Townsend.
Mary S. Whitney. 10 Mrs. C. R. Lowell.
Mary S. Kernochan 25 Miss Carlotta R. LowJ. Fred Kernochan. 25 Miss Carlotta R. LowJ. Fred Kernochan. 25 Miss F. R. Joues.
R. Battell. 10 Miss M. R. Appleton. R. Battell. Mrs. H. E. Howland. Cornelius N. Bliss....

CONGRESS AND THE TARIFF.

CHEAP STEEL AND OPEN-HEARTH FUR-NACES.

To The Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Referring to your article on the tariff in to-day's issue, I wish to call attention to a great in-justion in the Tariff bill just passed by the Senate, as well as to the House bill now under consideration. While it is proposed to make a great reduction in the duty on s proposed to make a treat set a pound, or say \$50.40 per ton to \$11.20 in the Senate bill, or to \$13.40 a ton in the House' bith as recommended by the Tariff Commission, an increase of duty is at the same ingots, etc., are made. It is well known that during the last few years a great number of open-hearth steal furnaces have been started, so that this has become a very important branch of business in many parts of the country, from Massachusetts to Tonnessee. To make cheap steel in the open-hearth furnaces the raw material used is principally scrap or refuse steel, such as the ends of steel rails, called crop-ends or bloom-ends, etc. The present duty on crop-ends is 30 per cent ad valorem, equal to about \$4.25 per ton, and it is now proposed by the Senate and the House to make a specific duty for this material of \$6.50 a ton, which is equal to a duty of 46 per cent ad

\$6 50 a ton, which is equant to a duty of 20 per cent advancem.

The only offset against this manifest injustice is a reduction of 50 cents a ton on pig iron, but a statis is used for making cheap steel in the open-hearth furnaces, four tons of crop-cads to one ton of pig iron, you will readily see that it will cost about \$2 a ton more to make this steel if such a tariff bill is passed. Yet there is to be a reduction in thoduly on the ingots, etc., of from \$371.0 \$39.

The result will be to close the open-hearth furnaces working on the cheap steel and allow the imported in gots, etc., to come in, thus curting off the consumption of pig iron, coal, etc., now used in 15cm.

The duty on pig iron of \$6 50, equal to 44 per cent on the present cost of Besseuer pig iron which is used for making steel, is also out of all proportion to the proposed duty on steel.

making steel, is also out of all proportion to the proposed duty on steel.

It seems to me that the protectionists and even the pig nron manufacturers of this country should see the necessity of lowering the duty on crop-ends, instead of advancing it, so as to enable the steel manufacturers of this country to compete with those abroad, as well as to herease the consumption of pig fron rather than allow the linguist, blooms, etc., to be imported. If the duty on steel ingois, etc., is to be reduced from 300 to 400 per cent, surely it is a manifest is dustice to advance the raw mancrial 50 per cent; that is, from \$4.25 to \$6.50 a ton. Trusting that the publication in your journal of these points will call the immediate attention of the steel manufacturers to the matter, I am yours truly.

A Profectionist.

New-York, Feb. 22, 1883.

hand, have not been needed to secure a proper obwere in favor of continuing protection. Following this came the attempt of Congress to modify the tariff, to correct inconsistencies and to improve the condition of suffering industries, but through unpatrictic and partisan motives the good work has been frustrated; amendment on amendment has reduced the measure to a condition in which it can only be regarded as being in the interest of free trade. Inasmuch as neither Revenus Reformers nor Free Traders (when actuated by affhonest purpose) desire any such change at this time, the present state of affairs may be regarded as a defeat to Protectionists, Revenue Reformers and Free Traders

Therefore it is I think idle work to advocate the passage of a Tariff bill during the present session of Con-tress. With respect to the bill of the Tariff Commission was, take it all in all, a symmetrical and equitable neasure, but the hurried manner in which it was made left serious breaches in its construction in the shape of omissions, repetitions and some additions to the free list omissions, repetitions and some additions to the free list which were made without that care and precision which should have actuated the members of the Commission. Therefore it was that upon the entry of this measure into the committee-room it could not stand the acrutiny of the best friends of protection, nor receive the warm support of fair-minded legislators. From these causes arises the present anomalous condition of adairs at Washimston, as it was an impossibility for either the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives or the Finance Committee of the Senate to pass this bill without remendment, and the imaguration of this method of making changes has resulted in the grotesque bills now presented by the two Houses. With regard to obtaining any relief from the conference committee, the adjustment of the tariff has grown to be of such transcendent importance that it would be impossible for a conference

ment of the tariff has grown to be of such transcendent importance that it would be impossible for a conference committee of the two Heuses to make a Tariff till, from the material that will be handed to them, which would be harmonious and consistent in form.

In view of these facts therefore, I say let the Republican party carry this fight into the future, sternly and courageously resisting at present any changes of the tariff law. They have endeavored to improve the condition of some suffering industries, and by so doing have been piaced on the brink of being beld responsible for a measure that will work disaster to our country. The conflict for the cause of protection can be more successfully carried on hereafter provided no bill is passed at this seasion, as the present condition of affairs is a warning to the protected industries to encourage a more united sentiment han has ever yet prevailed. We cannot now obtain any tariff legislation without seriously emistrassing the country, and, it may be, causing almost universal bankrepter, Yours truly, Henry Hower. parrassins the country, and, it may be, causing almaniversal bankruptey. Yours truly, HENRY BOWER

Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1883.

SAFETY IN CASE OF FIRE.

A trial of a new fire-escape invented by Mrs. H. R. Tracy took place yesterday at the Gramercy Park Hotel. The escape is a long sail-cloth trough, the lower side of which is made in the form of a canvas stairway wide of which is made in the form of a canvas stairway with a light rod at the foot of each step and a heavier steel rod across the upper side of the trough at short in-tervals. A system of steel bands connected with strong hinges forms the sides of the stairway and keeps it in shape. The whole apparatus, by means of the hinges, may be folded together so that it will occupy a small space and may be kept in a chest in a room, or a box to contain it may be built into the wall of a building under a window in each story. This box may be so constructed that it will not disfigure the structure. There would be an iron trap in the bottom of the box which could be dropped in an instant from within the building, letting the folded firecescape lall to the pavement rendy for use. The escape used in the trial yesterday was sixty-three feet in length and weighed 300 pounds. It was let down from the tourth story of the hotel, and was held out by two men, so that it made an easy slaur from the window. Three men came down, letting themselves slide slowly from step to step of the canvas stars. The canvas will be sooked in a preparation that will render it fireproof. The trial was witnessed by a large number of spectators. a chest in a room, or a box to contain it may be built

Thirty-nine pieces of orange-peel were found on a Hartford sidewalk, in a short distance, Monday, which shows that the legislators of this day are more extravagant than those of twenty-five years ago, who carryed the peel home in their cont-tail pockets and dried it for custards.—[Danbury News.

Mrs. Ramsbotham, thinking that she was quoting the proverb correctly, said, "Ah! a man with a large family has indeed 'given ostriches to fortune.' Nothing can be truer, my dear, for just think of the appetite of an estrich."—[Punch.

THE REVOLT OF CONVICTS.

QUIET RESTORED AT SING SING PRISON. INTENDED RIOTERS DEPRIVED OF A LEADER-TALKS WITH WARDEN BRUSH AND SUPERINTENDENT

BAKER-EVIL INFLUENCES FROM OUTSIDE. [FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] Sing Sing, Feb. 22.-Paddy Wynn, the long-term desperado who has been the ringleader in several riots at the State prison in past years, and who was to have been the leader in a general strike of the 400 convicts in the shoe-shops to-day, received early in the day a telegram from his friends in Ulster County, who expressed their confidence that pardon would shortly be obtained for him. Paddy" at once refused to have anything to do with the strikers, who, being deprived of their leader, doggedly went to their work as usual.

The anticipated outbreak did not occur. The men went to their shops in the morning and worked steadily all day, no fights of any consequence being reported.

Warden Brush thinks the troubles are almost over, though he says he cannot tell yet, as the men may break out at any moment. Last night when he made the rounds at 8:30 o'clock one prisoner cried out, "Let us all quit," but the others made no

"The men," said the warden, " are beginning to weaken, many sending me word that they are ready to perform their tasks. As they went to their cells for pleasure they will have to remain as a punishment. I do not for the present intend to transfer them to the old female prison, as it would require almost a new set of books to keep track of them individually. Many of the leaders have lost commutations varying from six months to two years and a half. Murphy, who led the disturbance in the moulding department, would have been released on Monday, but now he will have six months more to serve. The same is the case of Hallock, who led in

the laundry. "I suppose by the strike they hoped to aid in the abolishment of the convict labor system. If that were done, I don't think the State could take the departments and run them except at a loss. During the five years before Mr. Pillsbury took charge it cost the taxpayers \$895,152 41, and the last five years the earnings over the expenses have been \$205,692 91, a difference of \$1,100,845 in favor of the present system. The men's complaint of overwork and poor food is not true. The food is improving from year to year, costing \$12,000 more this year than it did to year, costing \$12,000 more this year than it drd last. Why, the wife of a convict came to me and complained that her husband had too much to do in the laundry. I told her his task was to iron twenty-six shirts a day, and she laundingly said she worked in a laundry and ironed thrity-five shirts a day. Therenever was a strike in the prison before lasting over two hours; and, if paddling for the offence were permitted, this would not have lasted so long."

To-day the warden intercepted a letter from a convict named James J. Connolly. It was addressed to an outsider, and after praising the prison food and treatment ended as follows:

There is one thing that discourages men here and that

dressed to an outsider, and after praising the prison food and treatment ended as follows:

There is one thing that discourages men here and that is not having the Privilee of making a little money for to assist them on leaving, and if you say you are anxious to benefit the convicts, that is the Point for you to commence at, in all other respects you will find that men never had Height or Better Food, than they have at present. All he wants now is to feel that he has enough to pay amonths board on leaving here, and 99 out of the Hundred men that leaves this Place will never return, where a man going out from these walls with \$5 has no chance of ginding work before he is Pennyless, then he must steal or beg, and no man is going to Beg off a community that so far forgets themselves as to turn men out of their so-called Beform Ingilitations, as they would their marked mules out of a stable, and now sir, by opening a way for the convict citties by doing work over the Required Task or by allowing him so much a day for his time, you will be doing him a service—on the other hand, by following up Imaginary Cruelties, you are injuring them in every sense.

Superintendent of Prisons I. V. Baker, jr., visited the prison to-day, remaining all the morning. "One can hardly form a reasonable theory for the outbreak," said the Superintendent to a TRIBUNE correspondent. "It would be reasonable to suppose that the men were influenced by the Governor's letter and by the investigation being conducted by the Prison Committhey It may be also that blooms, etc., to be imported. If the anty on steel theors, etc., is to be reduced from 300 to 400 per cent, surely it is a manifest injustice to advance the raw material 50 per cent; that is, from \$4.25 to \$6.50 a ton. Trusting that the publication in your fournal of these points will call the immediate attention of the steel manufacturers to the matter, I am yours truly, A PROTECTIONIST.

New-York, Feb. 22, 1883.

POSTPONEMENT OF TARIFF LEGISLATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune. tee.

POSTPONEMENT OF TARIFF LEGISLATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It would be desirable to have a tariff readjustment, and facts prove that the protectionists have endeavored to bring about such readjustment. At the Tariff Convention held in New-York in November, 1881, the question of a readjustment of the tariff was first broached in a serious manner. The work of this convention was followed by the appointment of the Tariff Commission; and the work of the Commission and its report were in favor of continuing protection. Following this and that would have ended it. As it is, the keepers A dozen of the leaders would have been whipped, and that would have ended it. As it is, the keepers have acted very judiciously. Probably two-thirds of the strikers are led by the other third, who are desperate New-York convicts. One effect of the strike has been to reduce the value of convict labor. As contracts ran out increased bids were made for the labor, in some instances bids having risen from 50 to 62 cents per day for each man. Carrell & Co., who have the hat contract at Dannemora prison, now pay 40 cents. day for each man. Carroll & Co., who have the hat contract at Dannemora prison, now pay 40 cents per man a day, and Mr. Carroll told me that he would not renew the contract for 30 cents. The business is too uncertain."

Late in the afternoon one of the keepers found

following letter in one of the cells of the

Brish's "patent revoit" thoroughly exposed and de-nounced in Senate and Assembly. Attempts in both fourses to sustain the warden voted down. Contract abor strongly condemned. A FRIEND.

"How can I maintain discipline," angrily ex-laimed the warden, "when such letters as these "How can I maintain discipline," angrily ex-claimed the warden, "when such le'ters as these are smurgled in to the convicts by outsiders? One of the men who has been conspicuous at the inves-tigation has been seen around Sing Sing this morn-ing, but whether this emanated from him or not I At 4:30 the convicts had all been locked up

THE ASSEMBLY INVESTIGATION.

HOW PRISONERS ARE TREATED AT SING SING-EFFECTS OF CONTRACT PRISON LABOR.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 22.-The Assembly State Prison Committee continued their investigation into the charges against the management of the Sing Bing Prison, at the Capitol this afternoon. Measrs. Keyes, Kelley, Emans, Taylor and Goddes, of the committee, were in attendance. Warden Brush, of Sing Sing Prison, was unable to be present, but ex Judge Taylor attended to his interests. The counsel for the prosecution, Mr. Sigerson, called the names of three witnesses, who failed to respond. Mr. Sigerson then proceeded to read the contract of the Bay State Shoe Company with the officials of the Kings County Penitentiary.

Mr. Sigerson then announced that the testimony for

the interest represented by him was practically closed, and read from pristed slips his closing argument. He maintained that over 60 per cent of the punishment inflicted in prisons was because of inability of convicts to perform their tasks. The object of the investigation was to show that the contract system was dorrescental to the manufacturing and labor interests of the State. Mr. Sigerson argued for its entire abolition, for the cancelling of all contracts now in force, and for the employment of convicts in the manufacture

of things needed in prisons.

The Kev. Silas Edgerton, chaptain of Sing Sing Prison. was examined at length. At the outset he contradicted the testimony of Conrad Strein, a convict, given at Sing sing, to the effect that he had been seen sitting with his feet upon a table, singing an operatic air and in a state of intoxication. He also denied having used profane language, as reported. He testified that he never saw language, as reported. He testined that he hever alw punishment inflicted upon prisoners, though his office was next to the punishment cell. He had heard the cries of convicts. Prisoners had requently made complaints to him, but, as he believed, without cause except in a very few instances. The witness had noticed a general appearance of disquietade and unreat on the part of prisoners since the visit of the investigating Committee to Bing Sing. The ten "solitary" cells were occupied this morning when the witness left the prison. He understood the occupants to have been placed in the cells for refusing to wers, and that about 130 of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners locked up were "strikers." A rule of the prisoners he hought that its condition was due to the dirty haults of the prisoners, many of whom went to bed with their tronsers on. The paddle now in use has been upset direct that 50,000 pairs of shoes were daily made in the prisoners. He strike, a shoemaker from Utica, testified that prison work was ruinous to the shoemakers outside. Dr. George J. Flaber, of sing sing, formerly a physician at the prison, said he was sever present during the paddling of a prisoner. He regarded Mr. Barber, the present punishment inflicted upon prisoners, though his office

prison physician, as a careful, kind man and attentive to the wants of prisoners. In his opinion one-third of the applicants for medical relief were guilty of shamming, "Frank" Cushman, the prisoner found dead in his cell on Monday, a week ago, died of rupture of the heart. It was the second case of the kind in the witness's experience. The witness was shown powders of the kind given to Cushman, but declined to examine them on the ground that a fair analysis could not be made with the naked eye. He thought it outrageous to put two men in one cell as cells were constructed at Sing Sing, and said the air of solitary cells when men were let out was something fearful.

The committee will examine Dr. Barber to-morrow morning, and will probably begin the investigation of Dannemora Prisor in the atternoon.

WASHINGTON AS A FARMER.

SOME RECENTLY PUBLISHED LETTERS.

A CAREFUL HUSBANDMAN—WHAT VISITORS WERE TO HAVE WINE.

The most agreeable reading in The Magazine of American History for February is furnished by some hitherto unpublished letters of Washington, from a series in possession of the Long Island Historical Society. The letters were written from Philadelphia while Washington was Presugent, to Mr. William Pearce, superintendent for three years of the

THE FIVE CENT FARE BILL.

ARGUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNOR IN OPPOSI-TION TO AND IN FAVOR OF ITS BECOMING A LAW. ALBANY, Feb. 22.-Governor Cleveland listened to arguments to-day on the bill reducing fares on the elevated railroads to 5 cents: from Francis C. Bar low, representing the Metropolitan Elevated Railroad Company, from Ira Shaffer, representing himself, and

from Senators Grady and Boyd.

Mr. Barlow opposed the bill. He said in opening his address that he should repeat many of the arguments made by David Dudley Field against the bill on Monday last. Like Mr. Field, he then argued that it would be a breach of contract on the part of the State with the elevated roads to reduce their fares. This contract he asserted was made by the authorities of New-York with the ele vated railroad compaties in order to induce them to build the roads. The power to alter a charter, conferred on the Legislature, Mr. Barlow contended, did not affect the case. Nor was the proposition sound that one Legis-lature could not bind another to a certain course of action. The Legislature that passed the rapid transit act certainly gave the power to the authorities of New-York to make such a contract. The rapid transit act might be repealed, but the contracts that had been made under it could not be broken by the State. General Barlow cited many cases in support of this argument. He then claimed that under the general rallway act no railroad could be compelled to run for less than 2 cents a mile. He informed the Governor that roads, duly signed and scaled, could be produced. This agreement had all the elements of a contract. Neither party had a right to repudiate it. If there was a disagreement about the terms of the agreement there should be a judicial investigation to determine which his octaion for the Governor to sign the act and leave the decision of these questions to the courts. The commeantime the railroads would have to run at 5 cents. One-third of their receipts would be thus cut off. Even cover the money. It would be a gross outrage on the part of the State of New-York to treat capital in this part of the State of New-York to treat capital in this manner. The Manhattan Company had never paid any dividends. The talk about paying dividends on its watered stock was therefore nonsense. The corporation was at one time considered insolvent, but by reducing the rentals it was enable I to go on. It now paid dividends to the New-York and the Metropolitan roads, Good treatment of capital was demanded from the State.

There was another objection, namely; it was special legislation. It said; "Any elevated road in the city of New-York," while the constitution forbade any such special legislation. This was a fatal objection. Naturally the representatives of New-York in the Legislatine were not disinterested. But it belonged to the Governor to defend the honor and good name of the city of New-York. pater Boyd, of New-Yerk, said that the people of

the default honour and good name of the city of Now-York.
Senator Boyd, of Now-York, said that the people of york.
Senator Boyd, of Now-York, said that the people of york.
Senator Boyd, of Now-York, said that the people of york, and had been willing to make all sorts of concession its capitalists to induce them to balld the roads. The york surplies to induce them to balld the roads, and that the state could alter a contract, it was hardly fair to sak the Governor to not as a judge of a court of hast recors on the question whether the city of a court of hast recors on the question whether the city of a court of the tree of the courts of the city of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the court of the tree of the court of the tree of the court of the

there are any petitions here in havor of this out? Private Secretary Lamont—Yes, there are some. Mr. Shaffer—May I inquire how many! Governor Cleveland—Oh, we have lots of them. Bu there is a wrong and a right to this bill. That is wha-we want to get at. Mr. Shaffer then said that he appeared in his own per-

A CONVERSATION WITH BISMARCK.

A CONVERNATION WITH BISMARCK.

Viena Correspondence of The London Daily News.

Is it not out of all reason that I should be ill just now I Böttlear is a convalencent, Burchard is away, and I must keep to my bed! We are getting old and sick, and dare not ask to be our own masters, and devote ourselves to the cultivation of our gardien, or the care of our own affairs. I cannot express now desirous I am to get off for a few days and rest, after the confision and turmoil of my every-day life. If could have my own way I should see he one for a whole year except wife, children, and grandchildren. We ought to live for them by rights, and I am prevented from doing so all my wife, children, and grandchildren. We ought to live for them by rights, and I am prevented from doing so all my life. Way, the next thing is that some councilor or other will read me a report in the mething how the members of my family are after the night's rest, and then there will be so much time saved again. The Emperor is a brave old man, as we could see in this last misfortune that has befailen him. Not one of ma all has the nerves of the angust old gentleman. I might say that as long as work is demanded of him he has no nerves at all. It is our luck that the Emperor never breaks down, that Molike is all right, and Kameke is up to anything. We civilians are not much good. Something is the matter with us always, so that when we trow old we are incessantly on the look-out for an opportunity to get away. The eternal wish for repose becomes a sort of aimment, and I for one cannot get rid of this ailment, although I have plenty of other sufferings to grumble over. If my career had stopped short of a councillor, I should have left my post long ago. As it is, I am condemned to spend my days in the Willemstrasse, the street of all others that I bave had stopped short of a councillor, I should have left my post long ago. As it is, I am condemned to spend my days in the Willemstrasse, the street of all others that I bave had some of the stopped short of

A MOSAIC PORTRAIT OF GARFIELD.

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Prom The London Times, Feb. 10.

A remarkable portrait of the late American President has just been executed by Messra. Salviati and Burke, of Regent-at, the well-known artists in mosaic and Venetian glass. The portrait, which is an undemably good likeness, is oval in form, with dimensions of about 3 feet by 2½ feet. It contains, in all, about 8,000 elsserer, the largest of which are perhaps half an luch square, while the smallest, which have been used for the freatment of the hair and beard, cannot be more than one-tents of an inch in diameter. It should be mentioned that in all mosaic work the size of the lessere is determined by the distance at which the picture is intended to be seen. In the vast spaces of 8t. Mark's, this portrait of General Garfield would be wholly lost and ineflective; in the smaller compass of a undern chamber mosaic from 8t. Mark's would seem coarse and unrefined in color and texture. Visitors to Westminater Abbey will notice that in the mosaic—also by Messrs. Salviatu—over the altar, which, though seen from a distance, is approached and approachable, this technical cation has resulted in the use of medium-sized tesseres. In the comparatively fareful mosaics of 8t. Paul's much larger individual pieces of color have been employed. The portrait of General Garfield is a gift to the American Nation, and will be placed in the Capitol at Washington, side by side with the mosaic likeness of President Lincoln which was presented by Messrs. Salviati some years ago. The gift ins been officially accepted by the American Government.

Husband (2 a. m., after a curtain lecture)-"Well, all I've got to say is you are a person of such re-finement and good breeding, you ought to be above talk-ing to a drauken fellow at this time of the night."— [Birmingham Owl.]

iam Pearce, superintendent for three years of the Mount Vernon estate. They relate to agicultural and domestic matters, show extensive knowledge of farming and afford additional proof of the careful attention bestowed by Washington upon the details of his business. In one of his letters to Mr. Pearce, as he is about to take charge, Washington says, Dec. 18, 1793: "My object is to recover the fields from the exhausted state into which they have fallen by oppressive crops, and to restore them (if possible by any means in my power) to health and vigor"; and after detailing some abuses which have crept into all parts of my business," he adds: "I had tather you should probe things to the bottom, whatever time it may require to do it, than to decide hastily on the first view of them; as to establish good rules and a regular system is the life and the soul of every kind of business." Soon after he wrote:

business." Soon after he wrote:

... Among the first things to be done after you are well fixed vourself, will be, I pressure, that of taking an exact account of the Stock of every species. Tools and implements on each of the farms—charging them therewith; that a regular accumit thereof may be rendered whenever called for.—Buy in Alexandria a proper (bound) book for this purpose, and another to enter the weekly reports in—The latter is required not only for my present satisfaction, but that it may also, at any time hereafter, shew in what manner the hands have been employed; and the state of the stock and other things of any pust period; and it is my wish, as this is inployed; and the state of the stock and other things of any past period; and it is my wish, as this is intended as a register of the proceedings on the farms.

Sthat they may be made with correctness:—always comparing the last with the preceding week's report and all differences satisfactorily accounted for.

The Overseers are allowed paper for these Reports. Suffer no exquise therefor for their not conjugate to the volume of the conjugate that you may be ing into you every Saturday night, that you may be ing into you every Saturday night, that you may be enabled to foreward a copy of them to me by the Wednesday's Fost following. And it is not only satisfactory, but may be of real utility to know the state of the weather as to heat & cold, drought or moisture; prefix, as usual, at the head of every weeks report a meteorological account of these. The Thermometer which is at Mount Vernon will enable you to do the first.

To these weekly letters and reports Washington replied by every Monday's post, reviewing his superintendent's work and adding minute instructions in reference to every detail of his business, down to the preparation of "Seins" for the spring catch of fish in the Potomac. These letters make up the collection of one hundred and eighteen in all which it is to be heped the Long Island Historical Society will publish in full. A few extracts are

Is there anything particular in the cases of Ruth, Hannah & Pegg, that they have been returned sick for several weeks together? Ruth I know is extremely deceifful; she has been aiming for some time past to get into the house, exempt from work; but it they are not made to do what their age & strength will enable them, it will be a very bad example to others, none of whom would work if by pretexts they can avoid it.

is too much practised. Nov. 23, 1794.

Nov. 23, 1794.

Nov. 23, 1794.

my mind, that in a letter from Mrs. Fanny Washington to Mrs. Washington (her aunt) she mentions, that since I left Mount Vernon she has given out four doz'n and eight botties of wine. Whether they are used, or not, she does not say; but I am led by it to observe, that it is not my intention that it should be given to every one who may incline to make a convenience of the bonse in travelling; or who may be induced to visit it from motives of curiosity. There are but three descriptions of people

who may be induced to visit it from motives of curiosity. There are bot three descriptions of reopie to whom I think it ought to be given:—first, my particular and intimate acquaintance, in case business should call them there, such for in tance as Doet Craik,—204, some of the most respectable foreigners who may, perchance, be in Alexandria or the federal City, and be either brought down, or introduced by letter from some of my particular acquaintance as before mentioned:—or thirdly, to persons of some distinction(such as members of Congress &c. e.) who may be travelling through the country from North to South, or from South to North. Unless some caution of this sort governs, I should be run to an expence as improper as it would be considerable. . . .

Feb. 22, 1795.

... Mr. Pearse Bailey may be informed that I never lower my price of land; it is infinitely more likely that it will be encreased than to stand even at what it has been offered for This he might reasonably expect, as landed property is rising fast in value every where, from the number of emigrants. & others who are wanting to vest their money in that species of property.

June 7, 1795.

I wish you could find out the thier who robbed the meat house at Mount Vernon & bring him to punishment, and at the same time secure the house against future attempts; for our drafts upon

him to punishment, and at the same time secure the house against future attempts; for our drafts upon it will be pretty large, I expect, when we come home, which probably may be about the middle or 20th of next month. Nathan has been suspected, if not detected in an attempt of this sort formerly. & is as likely as any one to be guilty of it now. For itlien Joe has been caught in similar practices; and Sam I am sure would not be restrained by any Quaims or conscience, 5th June, 1796.

quaims or conscience.

5th June, 1796.

On Wednesday last Congress closed their session; but there is yet a good deal for me to do before I can leave the Scat of the Government. My present expectation however is, that I shall be able to do this on to-morrow week; but as this is not certain, and as I shall travel slowly, to avoid what usually happens to me at this season, that is, killing or knocking up a horse; and as we shall, moreover, stay a day or two at the Federal City [Washington], it is not likely we shall arrive at Mount Verson before the 20th or 21st of this month.

In a lew days after we get there, we shall be visited, I expect, by characters of distinction. I could wish, therefore, that the Gardens, Lawns and every thing else in, and about the Houses, may be got in clean & nice order. If the Gardener needs aid to accomplish as much of this as lyes within his line, let hig have it; & let others rake & scrape up all the trash of every sort & kind about the houses, & in the holes & corners. . . and as the front gate of the Lawn (by the Ivies) is racked, and scarcely to be opened, I wish you would order a new one (like the old one) to be immediately made.

Take care to keep a sufficiency of Oats, and the best of your old Hay on hand. I shall have eight or ten horses of my own with me and there will be many others with visitors.

This letter-a long one-concludes with the following gentle reflection upon the originality of the

I perceive Mrs. Washington's Mem m I perceive Mrs. Washington's Mem. herewise that are sent contains nearly the same requests that are made in this letter, but I send it notwithstanding.

I wish you well and am Your friend

Go Washington.

The Frontispiece of this number of the magazine is one of the Sharpless portraits of Washington, now for the first time engraved. This particular study was a late one representing the Father of his Country as he appeared two years before his death. It was presented by Washington to his old friend Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge, and is now in possession of Frederick S. Talimadge, esq., of this city. It is plainty the homely and not the heroic Washington who is here presented. It is a profile view,

and therefore a certain heaviness about the lower lip with which we are not familiar in idealised Washingtons, is made unpleasantly apparent.

EDWIN BOOTH IN GERMANY.

THE OPINIONS OF HIS CRITICS. Edwin Booth has been acting in Berlin, at the Residenz Theatre, continuously and to crowded and en-thusiastic audiences, since January 11,-his engagement having been twice renewed. He has impersonated Hamlet, King Lear, lago, and Othello, and his perform ances have been reviewed at great length and in minute detail, in the Berlin newspapers. Appended hereto are extracts 'rom a number of those journals, giving the spirit of the critical press with reference to this subject:

spirit of the critical press with reference to this subject:

THE BEST HAMLET OF ALL.

Oscar Welten in the Tagliche Berliner Rundschau.

Booth is the best Hamlet I have ever seen. Neither Rossl, Devrient nor Barnay,—not to mention the minor celebrities,—can be put on the same level with bim. Joseph Wagner is perhaps the only one who can be compared with him, and Wagner is dead. Even he falled to rake me understand Hamlet as the great American did. You can understand Booth perfectly even though you may not know a single word of what he utters. Here his essential power as an actor shows itself. In mobility of expression his countenance is extraordinary,—almost unique. In "Hamet" the seene with the flutes, as interpreted by him, was a masterpiece. The audience greeted is with a sterm of applicate. The Play seene was quite overwhelming in its effect. Booth's quick transition from wild laughter to choking agony is an achievement of startling power, in the school of realistic gestheticism. His action in the passage that involves Yorick's skull may be noted as of kindred character. The vital treatment extends to the most minute details.

ment extends to the most minute details.

BOOTH'S HAMLET ORIGINAL AND PRINCELY.
From the Unterhalungs-Blatt der Berliner Presse.
Here and there we should have liked more dramatici power, but this Hamlet is totally unside any German Humlet that ever we saw, and so are inclined to say that Edwin Booth is Hamlet by the grace of God and of Shakespeare—that a ray of the light which inspired the great Englishman in his creation has also inspired this actor. You may, if you like, wrangle over the interpretation of the character. Hamlet presents itself to the nind of every actor differently. A creation immeasurable as the wide world admits of the largest and most varied exposition. This granted, Booth is a phenomenal artist. He is the most sombte of all stage Hamlets; but his understanding of the part and the manner in which he evolves it are so full of light and clearness that all commentaries upon this difficult character appear superfluous. There is an infinite charm in the acting of this artist, so simple, so noble and free from all attempts at mere effect. Even in moments of the lighest passion he never oversteps the boundary lines of the beautiful. He is always "every lineh a king."

HIS BROAD AND NORLE METHOD.

Prom the Preussic's Zaitung.

Booth is not a quack, who surprises the public with petty-tricks, nor is he a virtness she works out a few little details at the expense of the whole. He is an artist who interprets the innermost meaning of the part. Above all, he is an actor of singular notility of mind and manner.

A HAMLET OF INDESCRIBABLE BEAUTIES.

A HAMLET OF INDESCRIBABLE BEAUTIES.

Prom the Vessische Zeitung.

But how is it possible to enumerate in detail ithe striking, delicate, touching and charming points of this interpretation, the irony toward Polonius, the interest in the grave-digger, the desperate hilarity during and after the Play scene, the deep pathos in the mueting with his mother,—which we regard as the chimax of Booth's performance! A temperament of singular purity, features of infinite capacity for expression, a capityating voice (which only at minor points was not altogether free from mannerism), place the impersonations of Ecoth among the most attractive and life-like that could be conceived.

HIS WONDERFUL TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY.

This artist might almost be judged by merely a single scene—the scene in which Horatio tells him, as Hamlet, that his father's ghost is haunting the ramparts. The incredulity which drifts over his face, the changing men of horror, which is followed by that of agony, and again by that of resolute determination, the incessant, rapid flaw of questions and answers—these are all true signs of a deep feeling, which in its expression irresistibly excites and sways the spectator's mind and heart.

UNEXPECTED AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY.

From th Signiburger Zeitung.

Very unjustly, it appears, do we allow ourselves to be suspicious of works of art which originate in America. The "puffing" by which, as a rule, they are heralded, repels us from them. Then, too, the impression which we derive from hearing of the untertailstic tendencies of life in America and of the technical character of the culture which is said to dominate all minds in that country, is perplexing and well calculated to mislead. How can the eminently practical American, we ask,—he that is said to have ropes for nerves,—be in sympathy with the most subtle character that a poet ever created! The spiritual, sublimated Hamlet soul, with all its nervous, dream-like and melancholy attributes,—how can this be conceived by such a man.

For an answer, look at Edwin Bootn. True, genoine, profound feeling it is which he brings into play, and which capituates and awakena our enthusiasm. He is guided by artistic instinct, he is free from all exceases, he is discreet, and always moves on the liacs of true beauty. Over all the passion that burns with consuming flame in his bosom, over all the dark despair of a blooding soul, rises still,—distinct and supreme,—the tender, gentle, perhaps bitter, but always refined melancholy of is dominant intellect, Mr. Booth's acting of Hamlet places him, among German Interpreters of this character, at the side of Joseph Wagner and Emil Devrient. The inter—one of the most famous,—Booth seems to surpass in diversity and inclisiveness. His wit and frony, in the seenes with Potonius and the courtiers, are quicker, and his manner toward Horatio, Ophelia and the mother is more winning.

TRUE PASSION AND NO RANT.

TRUE PASSION AND NO RANT.

From the Berliner Zeitung.

Booth deserved to the fullest extent the encrmous applause which greeted him as Hamlet. In this
part, which for years has been played by every eminent
actor, he surpassed nearly all his predecessors. This interesting, melancholy philosopher and prince was not a
mere stage Hamlet. With Booth, art has become so
much a part of his being that one is startied at his fidelity to nature. Thus truly must Hamlet have presented
himself to the magination of Shakespeare. In speech,
in play of feature, in the whole interpretation, there was
something indescribably grand and touching. Edwin
Booth was the living Hamlet, with all the peculiarities
and mysticism of his character. The scene in which the
ghost appears to Hamlet made a profound impression.
Everybody admired the masterly power of the actor,
who by simple facial expression was able to produce
such an astounding effect. Indeed, the word "simple" is
particularly characteristic when applied to the acting of
this artist. Not holow sentiment, not endless sighing,
and not rant and insane raving, but deep inner emotion,
life-like action, true feeling and real passion distinguish
the Hamlet of Edwin Booth.

CALLED OUT TWENTY-FOUR TIMES.

CALLED OUT TWENTY-FOUR TIMES.

From the Berliner Fremden Blatt.

Booth seems to take the cue for his conception of Hamiet from the lines beginning the monologue:

"O that this too, too solid flesh would melt." His spirit is rebellious against the cumbersome body, and ever desirons to "shuffle off this mortal coil." Throughout the almost death-like calm whichspervades his being a flery longing to escape the burden imposed upon him by Fate seems to agitate the innermost recesses of his nature. Splendid outbursts of impassioned eloquence, prompted by this struggle, thrill the hearer's very soul. The wonderful play of Booth's face, and the soul-searching glances from the burning depths of his dark eyes, enthral the hearts of bis auditors, even though the words he speaks may be in a language not familiar to all. The verdict of the public of Berlin agrees with that of all former judges of Mr. Booth's Hamdet in pronouncing it a masterpiece of the actor's genius, grand in its imposing quietande, towering above all his rivals in its passionate utterances and beautified into a stage figure of fascinating proportions by the consummate grace of its representative.

Of perfections there seem to be so many, of faults so few, that we do not know to what portion of the part as he renders it we should accord the most unqualified praise. Never did an actor succeed so admirably in painting alike the noble dignity and the exquisite humor of the philosophic Hamlet. . . And what shall I say of the fencies-scene,—that apotheous of grace was ever more delightful play witnessed in any of our play-houses, by any one of our great actors, past or present? When has death been portrayed more faithfully yet less revolitingly I The curtain fell upon the most wonderful impersonation of Hamlet that Berlin has ever seen,—an impersonation of Hamlet that Berlin has ever seen,—an impersonation of Hamlet that Berlin has ever seen,—an the seeme, and at the close of the acts, no less than twenty-four times.

An Incomparate of the cost of the acts, no

the scene, and at the close of the acts, no less twenty-four times.

AN INCOMPARABLE LEAR.

From the Volks Zeitung.

We awaited with some misgivings the performance of Lear. Booth has a slight figure and his voice is lacking in resonance, fulness and power. Will the art of the actor succeed in forming, out of such fragmentary material, the gigantic figure of a Lear! The curse upon Gone if dissipated all our doubts. Surprise changed into wonder, wonder into admiration. Yes, in this performance, approaching the wonderful, Edwin Booth has proved anew that he is an actor of true gentus; for though nature has equipped him but poorly, in a physical sense, for this, the most powerful of Shakespeare's characters, his langination, depth of feeling and profound study enabled him to create the most astounding effects.

His Lear transcends comparison with any of the impersonations of the past that are known to us. Rosal and Salvini do not approach him in this creation of Shakespeare. These tragedians of the Ruma race equal him in the flaming heat of his scorn, but Shakespeare and fight too high for them in the scenes of the King's madness. It required an actor of the race and the spirit of the poet—the Anglo-Saxon race and spirit the spirit of the poet—the Anglo-Saxon race and spirit the spirit of the poet—the Anglo-Saxon race and spirit of the poet—the Anglo-Saxon race and spirit of the command the spirit of the poet—the Anglo-Saxon race and spirit who lets us gaze into the far distance of the land of dreams who communicates to us the vibrations of his own heart; and who wins from our eyes the tender tears own heart; and who wins from our eyes the tender tears own heart; and who wins from our eyes the tender tears of his tragedy. We live through it, and we part from it with a storm raging in our souls.

MORE FATHER THAN KING AS LEAR.

MORE FATHER THAN KING AS LEAR.

MORE PATHER THAN KING 48 LEAR.

From the Berliner Borsen Zeitung.

Booth played Lear, if possible, with more sould and perhaps less materialism, than Hamlet. In the beginning his reading of the character seemed strange, but it soon succeeded in carrying conviction with it. The artist accentuated less the unhappy king than the unhappy father, and what his impersonation thereby lost in straute proportions it gained in human sympathy. In consequence of this unusual but not by any means inferior conception, the climax of his performance was inferior conception, the climax of his performance was not reached,—as in the case of other actors,—in the first, but in the latter part of the play. From the mad scenes to the close the performance was a series of ever-increasing triumphs.